Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): Screen (1) for holding refuse sacks (7) open, wherein:

the screen (1) is formed of an elastic material and is compressible from a normal shape to a narrower shape for threading a refuse sack (7) onto the screen (1) or inserting the screen into the refuse sack (7), the screen (1) thereafter being brought to spring out from the narrower shape to the normal shape for stretching the refuse sack (7),

the screen (1) has an elongated shape with a length permitting folding of open parts (7b) of the refuse sack (7) into the screen (1) and holding the refuse sack (7) so that said sack (7) can stand upright on a support, and

a locking device (11) including pins (11a) for pressing the open parts (7b) of the refuse sack (7) onto the pins (11a) such that the pins (11a) penetrate the open parts (7b), said pins (11a) being uniformly distributed along an end portion (1c) of said screen (1), said pins (11a) extending from said end portion (1c) in a direction substantially along the length of said screen (1).

Claim 2 (Canceled)

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): Screen according to claim 1, wherein a member (13) is provided to hold the screen (1) in the narrower shape.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): Screen according to claim 1, wherein a second end portion (1c) of the screen (1) has at least one handle opening (6) into which parts (12) of the refuse sack (7) are insertable such that the handle opening (6) may be grasped in order to lift and carry the screen (1) and the refuse sack (7) together.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): Screen according to claim 1, wherein the pins (11a) extend outwards from ~~a second~~ said end portion (1c) of the screen (1).

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): Screen according to claim 1, wherein the screen (1) in cross section has a semicircular shape.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): Screen according to claim 1, wherein the screen (1) is provided to permit location thereof, with a refuse sack (7) provided thereon, on a support (8) from which refuse shall be moved into the refuse sack (7), such that those parts (12) of the refuse sack (7) which extend between two longitudinal edges (2, 3) of the screen (1) and which thereby have a planar shape, are situated close to and/or engage the support (8).

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): Screen according to claim 1, wherein longitudinal edges (2, 3) of the screen (1) are designed or include members for preventing damage of the refuse sack (7) by the longitudinal edges (2, 3).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): Screen according to claim 1, wherein a strip (15) ~~can be~~ is hooked onto two longitudinal edges (2, 3) of the screen (1) such that the strip (15) extends across an opening (1a) between the longitudinal edges (2, 3) at a second end portion (1c) of the screen (1) and that the open parts (7b) of the refuse sack (7) ~~can be~~ are folded within the strip (15).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): Screen according to claim 1, wherein:

the screen (1) is thin-walled and consists of polypropylene~~, and~~

~~the refuse sack (7) is a plastic bag from which the screen (1) can be removed and which can be tied up after removal from the screen (1)~~.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): An apparatus for maintaining a refuse sack (7) in an open condition, said apparatus comprising:

an elastic panel member (1) compressible from a first shape to a second, narrower shape for inserting said panel member (1) into the refuse sack (7), said panel member (1) flexing outwardly from said second shape toward said first shape thereby stretching the refuse sack (7), said panel member (1) having a length allowing folding of open parts (7b) of the refuse sack (7) into said panel member (1); and

a locking device (11) including pins (11a) for penetrating the open parts (7b) of the refuse sack (7) thereby securing said panel member (1) within the refuse sack (7), said pins (11a) being uniformly distributed along an end portion (1c) of said panel member (1), said pins (11a) extending from said end portion (1c) in a direction substantially along the length of said panel member (1).